

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County Commissioners to Hold Final Budget Hearing This Week

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback at the Missoula County Commissioners' final budget hearing at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, in Courthouse Annex Room 151. After weighing additional public comment received at the hearing, commissioners will consider the budget for final adoption at an administrative meeting next week.

The [proposed final budget](#) and all [budget requests](#) for fiscal year 2019, as well as more information about the budget process and key terms, are available for review on the county's Financial Services [budget webpage](#).

The proposed final budget differs from the preliminary budget presented in July in three ways:

- 1) It's based on the certified taxable value numbers from the Montana Department of Revenue, so the revenue numbers are no longer projections;
- 2) It includes a reduction of more than \$600,840 in the personnel line of the Sheriff's Office budget to reflect the match no longer required of Missoula County after employees covered by the Sheriff's Retirement System voted to stop paying into Social Security;
- 3) It reflects a one-time payment of \$502,781 from the City of Missoula in tax revenue released from several urban renewal districts.

The proposed final budget incorporates the mill value of \$220,300 calculated by DOR, which will result in a 4.91 percent increase in property taxes – 11.14 new mills – of which 2.90 percent is from voter-approved bonds issued for construction of the new Missoula Public Library – 6.59 mills. The remaining 2.01 percent increase – 4.55 mills – constitutes the increase in the county's budget. The increased property tax on a \$200,000 home would be \$30.08 per year with \$18.06 attributable to the library and \$12.02 for county services.

Regarding the one-time payment from the urban renewal districts, 60 percent is proposed to be used to reduce property taxes and 40 percent is proposed to be budgeted in the county's replacement and refurbishment fund for capital items. The replacement and refurbishment fund allows the county to address ongoing building maintenance needs and avoid the costs of deferred maintenance, for example building roof replacements and heating system repairs.

Of note in this year's budget is the increase in the permissive medical mills levied. The county is authorized in 2-9-2012 MCA to levy taxes to fund contributions for group insurance. Historically, the

county has not levied the amount necessary to cover those costs. To more accurately reflect the mills levied in each fund for personnel, operations and capital, the preliminary budget reflects a 6.57 countywide mill increase to the permissive medical levy. This offsets the mills required in other county funds and is reflected as a decrease in mills levied for those funds. Attachment C in the proposed final budget shows the mills levied in each fund and compares fiscal years '18 and '19.

Anyone interested can view the commissioners' [meeting schedule](#), find meeting agendas and minutes on the commissioners' [agenda portal](#), and read the [Budget in Brief](#) publication from FY18 to learn more about the budget process. You can also [view your tax bill](#) and learn how your taxes are distributed to the various taxing jurisdictions in which you live. Once you find your property on iTax, just click on the "View Pie Charts" link.

Comments and suggestions on the proposed final budget and the budget process are welcomed. Call the Commissioners' Office at 406-258-4877 or email bcc@missoulacounty.us. CFO Andrew Czorny also welcomes comments and questions on the proposed final budget, budget requests and the budget process.

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